

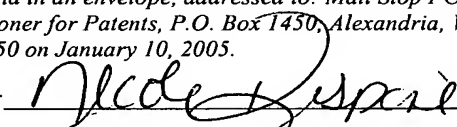
PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application. No. : U.S. Filing of International Application PCT/DE03/02196  
Applicants : Wild, et al.  
Confirm. No. : Unassigned  
Filed : Herewith  
Title : OPTICAL VARIABLE ELEMENT HAVING A VARIABLE  
DISTANCE-LAYER THICKNESS  
TC/A.U. : N/A  
Examiner : N/A  
Docket No. : 1093-121 PCT/US  
Dated : January 10, 2005

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the  
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  
22313-1450 on January 10, 2005.*

Signature: 

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In order to fulfill the requirements of candor and good faith set forth in 37 C.F.R.

§1.56, Applicants submit herewith the following Information Disclosure Statement in  
accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98.

**UNITED STATES PATENT PUBLICATIONS**

<b><u>APPLICANT(S)</u></b>	<b><u>PUBLICATION NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PUBLICATION DATE</u></b>
Palmasi, et al.	2001/0012137 A1	August 9, 2001
Shaw, et al.	2001/0028921 A1	October 11, 2001

**UNITED STATES PATENTS**

<b><u>PATENTEE(S)</u></b>	<b><u>PATENT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE DATE</u></b>
Schmitz, et al.	6,491,324	December 10, 2002

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<b><u>COUNTRY</u></b>	<b><u>PUBLICATION NO.</u></b>	<b><u>PUBLICATION DATE</u></b>
WIPO	WO 01/03945 A1	January 18, 2001
EPO	EP 0 660 262 A2	June 28, 1995
WIPO	WO 02/00445 A1	January 3, 2002
Germany	DE 199 41 295 A1	March 1, 2001
Germany	DE 197 31 968 A1	January 28, 1999
Germany	DE 691 30 383 T2	March 11, 1999
EPO	EP 0 472 371	March 11, 1999

A copy of each of the references set forth above has been enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner, and a separate listing of the same has been set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449. U.S. Patent No. 6,491,324 corresponding to non-English document DE 197 31 968 and an English translation of EP 0 472 371 corresponding to non-English document DE 691 30 383 T2, are submitted herewith to facilitate reference thereto.

An English abstract of the non-English document is provided herewith, as well as a concise explanation of the non-English document in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

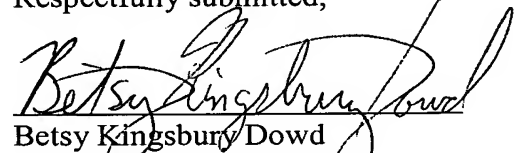
**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF  
NON-ENGLISH PATENT DOCUMENT**

German patent document DE 199 41 295 A1 relates to a safety element located on the surface of a valuable object. The safety element has a thermochromic layer, which is combined with an effective later that has visually and/or machine readable characteristics.

Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements of candor and good faith set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 have been fulfilled, having submitted all known references in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98. Applicants believe that no fee is due at this time. If it is determined that a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2461.

In view of the present submission, it is believed that the above-referenced application is, in all respects, complete and in condition for further examination and favorable consideration. If the Examiner has any questions or comments relating to the present application, he or she is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth in below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1093-121 PCT/US	SERIAL NO. <b>10/520803</b> Unassigned
	APPLICANT Wild, et al.	CONFIRMATION NO. Unassigned
	FILING DATE Herewith	GROUP Unassigned

### U.S. PATENT PUBLICATIONS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		2001/0012137 A1	8/9/01	Palmasi, et al.			
		2001/0028921 A1	10/11/01	Shaw, et al.			

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,491,324	12/10/02	Schmitz, et al.			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		WO 01/03945 A1	1/18/01	WIPO				
		EP 0 660 262 A2	6/28/95	EPO				
		WO 02/00445 A1	1/3/02	WIPO				
		DE 199 41 295 A1	3/1/01	Germany				
		DE 197 31 968 A1	1/28/99	Germany				
		DE 691 30 383 T2	3/11/99	Germany				
		EP 0 472 371	3/11/99	Europe				

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.